

SPORTS

CAGERS FINISH BEST SEASON EVER

For the second time in a long and disappointing history the men's basketball team finished a season with more wins than losses. The final record 14-9 though not spectacular as compared to Marquette, is still the best in school history.

The season came to an end Saturday night at Trenton State in Drew's first ever post-season basketball game. The Rangers despite a strong first half, were not able to get baskets in the second half. As Coach Harper put it "We were unable to make the big play when we needed it." A strong surge by Trenton put the game on ice with two minutes remaining. The final score was 72-62.

Although the loss was disappointing, the team has nothing to be ashamed of. What they accomplished during the season is impressive:

At one time, the Rangers were the leading small college team in the nation in scoring with a 98.0 ppg average. As late as February, the Rangers were still in the top 10.

In February Drew knocked off Albright the ninth ranked college team in the nation.

Another feat was the team's second straight I.A.C. title after an 8-0 record in the conference.

At one point the team had six players averaging in double figures in scoring. Although these facts may not be impressive to everyone they show something important: Drew's basketball team, a long time dormant, has turned into a team to be reckoned with. Next season promises to be even more exciting.

In closing, there are a couple of things which deserve mention. First of all,

against FDU-Madison last Thursday Jim Magee reached the 1,000 point mark in his Drew career. The second item is the fact that the Rangers will lose Kevin Grimes and Jesse Anthony to graduation this spring. Both of them are good ball players. Jesse the man with many moves has given the game a great amount of excitement in this years on the team. Kevin, unfortunately injured in the closing weeks of the season, always gave a hundred percent. Though never an exciting slam dunk artist, Kevin made a solid contribution to the team in his four seasons at Drew.

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Drew Swordsmen Finish Season Four Bouts From The Best

By: A.H. Abel

Friday, February 17, marked the end of regular season play for the Drew fencing team, as they rolled over Rutgers Newark, 18-9. An initial charge left the score 8-1 at the close of the first round, and Drew soon clinched the 14th bout for an automatic win, playing substitutes for many of the remaining bouts. The decisive evening marked the end of an apparently mediocre 5-5 season, but hailed the beginnings of an outstanding league performance by the swordsmen at the MAC Tournament.

The season 5-5 record reflects a traditional Drew weakness concerning tied scores. Three of the five losses, to Temple, N.J.I.T., and Stevens Tech., were 13-14 matches which could easily have gone the other way had Drew pushed harder at the clinch. The two remaining losses, to Johns-Hopkins and Haverford, were both scored at 9-10; the Haverford match represented one of the worst team performances Drew has exhibited in years. In retrospect, an 8-2 record would have been much more indicative of the teams potential, as was evidenced not long after.

Things took a turn for the better a week after the close of the regular season as the Drew swordsmen put forth their best showing ever at the Middle Atlantic Conference Championships. By scoring 35 tournament victories, Drew placed 4th in the conference, 3 bouts behind traditional rivals Stevens Tech and Johns-Hopkins, and only 4 bouts behind conference champs William and Mary.

Coach Paul Primamore has played several outstanding individual fencers over the years, but never to date has he fielded a team with such an even spread of talent. Representing Drew were Marc Serra and Albert Brown in foil, Jay Showalter and Steve Dultz in sabre, and David Dean and John Stansfield in epee.

However, the team work was not the only high point of this premier event. In each of the three weapons a Drew fencer advanced to the final round. Foil man Albert Brown fenced a spectacular first round in which he saw only one defeat, and went on to capture 6th in a field of the top 20 conference foil fencers. In sabre, senior Jay Showalter emerged the victor of his first round swordplay, losing 5th place on indicators (the number of touches scored against a fencer, used to determine ties) in the final round, to place a fine 6th in the conference.

The final episode concerns team captain Dave Dean. Dean, switching from foil to epee late in November, went on to end the season with an AFLA medal, a 20-8 record, and a spot among the 40 epee fencers to compete in the NCAA National Championship starting March 16th in Kenosha, Wisconsin. His first round in the MAC's saw two defeats which he promptly made up for by taking 4th place in the finals.

Overall, it can be said that Drew's 1978 fencing team, despite its apparently unspectacular record, is easily one of the finest in recent times, and is proving to be among the best in the conference.